

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 02369 180120Z POSS DUPE
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06
NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 AID-05 L-03 SS-15 /085 W
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P R 172213Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9196
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR PE
SUBJ: NARCOTICS: DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARELLANO'S VISIT

1. DURING ONE DAY VISIT TO LIMA, ARA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARD G. ARELLANO MET SEVERAL KEY PERUVIAN NARCOTICS OFFICIALS AT SOCIAL OCCASION HOSTED BY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR. GROUP INCLUDED VICE INTERIOR MINISTER GEN. ZEGARRA, PERUVIAN INVESTIGATIVE POLICE (PIP) DIRECTOR LEZAMA AND HIS DEPUTY INSPECTOR MEJIA, ATTORNEY GENERAL DIAZ POMAR, AND DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT COCA ENTERPRISE (ENACO) COSTA. FRANK AND OPEN 2-HOUR DISCUSSION PRODUCED NO SIGNIFICANT NEW INFORMATION BUT CENTERED ON FOLLOWING THEMES:

- IMPORTANCE OF GOP'S STRICT NEW DRUG LAW;
 - NEED FOR GREATER COOPERATION BETWEEN ENFORCEMENT AND JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES IN PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKERS;
 - PROSPECTS FOR CROP REDUCTION AS ENVISAGED IN NEW LAW AND
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POSSIBLE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESTRAINTS;

- NEED FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO COMPLEMENT CROP REDUCTION PROGRAM;
- IMPORTANCE OF INCREASED UN NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE FOR LATIN AMERICA.

MR. ARELLANO EMPHASIZED OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN PERU'S LAUDABLE EFFORTS IN NARCOTICS CONTROL AND WILLINGNESS OF US TO CONSIDER SYMPATHETICALLY REQUESTS FOR APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE. HE NOTED TOO ROLE IDB MIGHT PLAY IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

2. THE FRUITFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WAS USEFUL NOT ONLY TO THE US OFFICIALS PRESENT BUT TO THE PERUVIAN PARTICIPANTS AS WELL AND DEMONSTRATED THE NEED FOR A COORDINATED, MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE EFFORTS BY THE VARIOUS GOP AGENCIES ENGAGED IN NARCOTICS MATTERS. EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL TO BE ESTABLISHED UNDER NEW LAW WITHIN INTERIOR MINISTRY MAY PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THIS REGARD; GEN. ZEGARRA TOLD GROUP THAT HE HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY INTERIOR MINISTER TO HEAD THAT OFFICE UNTIL PERMANENT DIRECTOR NAMED.

3. DISCUSSION ALSO TOUCHED UPON US-SUPPORTED REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON NARCOTICS CONTROL. LEZAMA REITERATED PIP INVITATION TO HOST CONFERENCE AND REAFFIRMED EARLY MAY AS SUITABLE DATE. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT PIP HOPED FOR SOME SUPPORT FROM USG TO DEFRAY COSTS OF CONFERENCE, GIVEN TIGHT GOP BUDGET SITUATION. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE EARLIEST NAMES OF PARTICIPANTS SO THAT PIP MAY EXTEND INVITATIONS. IT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL TO HAVE ROUGH IDEA OF AMOUNT OF S/NM FUNDS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST HOSTS SO THAT FINAL CONFERENCE ARRANGE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENTS CAN BE WORKED OUT WITH THE PIP.
SHLAUDEMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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